

Hampden has been home to people and businesses for hundreds of years. Over that time, the use of the land has changed in response to the technologies available and as the vocations people engaged in changed. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, cities across the country began to adopt regulations that controlled how housing could be built, to improve the living conditions for thousands of people. Such efforts were successful and eventually evolved into a regulatory framework called "zoning" which is based on the premise that land uses should be somewhat segregated from each other in order to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the local inhabitants.

The majority of the proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance are reformatting and clarification, to make the ordinance easier to use and understand. A few amendments are significant changes to the regulations, to streamline application processes or eliminate complex regulations that inhibit new investment in Hampden.

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# Town of Hampden



# 2018 Zoning Ordinance Amendments

Making Hampden's zoning user friendly and understandable.

What is Zoning? And How Can We Improve Ours?

# What is Zoning?

Zoning consists of a set of regulations which govern land use in a community. At the core of most zoning ordinances today is a map that di-

vides the town into various "zoning districts," each with a purpose and intent that differentiates it from other zoning districts in the town. Accompanying this map are regulations that set forth the uses allowed in each district, the sizes of lots allowed to be created, standards

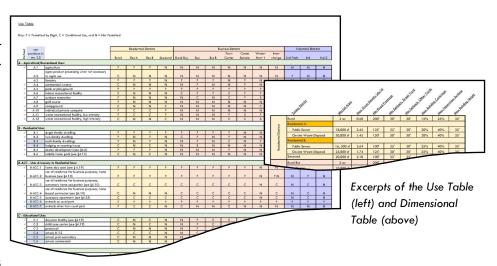
Hampden's zoning map. The majority of town is in the Rural district, with the remainder split into more than a dozen residential, commercial, and industrial districts.

that must be met for certain uses to be approved in some districts, and standards that must be met for new construction of residential, commercial, industrial, and other types of uses. For example, one district might be for residential uses, and new lots for single family homes need to be a certain size with a certain amount of frontage on a road. Other uses might be allowed in the district (e.g. a community park) while some uses

might be allowed with special permission (called a conditional use), for instance a community building. The idea is that you do not want to mix uses that are not compatible, such as a manufacturing facility in a residential neighborhood.

Zoning ordinances address these and many other land use issues, and include

processes for property owners to obtain permission to construct new buildings, establish new uses, and expand existing uses.



Hampden first adopted zoning regulations in 1964, and replaced that early version in 1979. Since then, the town has amended the zoning ordinance on 131 occasions, many times with multiple amendments. We have now taken a broad view of the ordinance in its entirety, examining how it functions and how easy or difficult it is to use. This year we are proposing a full-scale update to the ordinance, aimed at reorganization, updating provisions, and simplifying approval processes. The changes are designed to benefit home owners, local businesses, and should help Hampden attract more economic development while retaining its residential appeal. But the ultimate goal is to make Hampden's zoning user friendly and understandable.

Town of Hampden